

## DOMENICI'S "ACCESS" RADIO SHOW

### Questions & Answers With New Mexico Radio Journalists

TO TAPE THE SHOW, CALL TOLL-FREE

1-800-545-1267 ext. 309

or visit [www.senate.gov/~domenici/press](http://www.senate.gov/~domenici/press)

Senator Pete Domenici recorded his "ACCESS" radio news conference Monday, July 24, 2000. To access his comments, call 1-800-545-1267, enter extension 309, select topic. Please call the Domenici press office for assistance: 202-224-7082.

PARTICIPANTS: Mark Bently, KRSN Los Alamos  
Alex Cuellar, KKOB Albuquerque  
Bob Mitchell, KRWG Las Cruces  
Mike Jaxson, KVLC Las Cruces  
Jeff Lynn, KSNX/KSEL Clovis

TOPICS: Marriage Penalty Tax  
Tax Cuts Affect on \$3 Trillion Surplus  
Richard Cheney as Republican Vice Presidential candidate  
Silvery Minnow and Rio Grande Water  
Negotiating with Interior Secretary Babbitt on Rio Grande Water  
Telemarketer Overload  
Medicare+Choice Legislation for N.M. Seniors  
Fort Sumner Irrigation District & Pecos River Water

#### DETAILS:

- Domenici says virtually all New Mexico married couples will benefit from the **Marriage Penalty Tax** repeal passed by the Congress last week.
- Domenici says the repeal of the Marriage Penalty Tax and Death Tax will only use about 6 percent of the estimated \$3 trillion **non-Social Security surplus**. He says this is a reasonable amount to give back to the American people.
- Domenici says there is a good chance that former Wyoming congressman and Defense Secretary **Richard Cheney** will be picked by Republican presidential nominee George W. Bush to run as his running mate. Domenici says Cheney's selection would indicate that Bush wants a strong ticket rather than one founded electoral vote potential.
- Domenici says he believes the issue of Rio Grande water for the endangered **silvery minnow** will hinge on two issues—whether the Rio Grande has historically run “wet” year around, and whether the Interior Department can federalize the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District (MRGCD).
- Domenici says he is working with **Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt** on an agreement on the Rio Grande water issue and the solicitor's decision on the MRGCD, which will allow him to drop his amendment to prohibit the federalization of the MRGCD.
- Domenici says he wouldn't oppose the New Mexico legislature considering a law to allow consumers to restrict **telemarketing calls**, although he wouldn't want it to hurt the growth of the telecommunications industry in the state.
- Domenici says he is crafting a bipartisan bill to ensure the viability of the **Medicare+Choice program** in New Mexico and other rural areas. He says the bill would increase Medicare reimbursements as a way to allow seniors to keep health care coverage through private insurers, often with prescription drug coverage.
- Domenici says he is discussing the Interior Department's order on the **Fort Sumner Irrigation District** to release Pecos River water. He says Babbitt does not view the FSID situation in the same manner as the MRGCD situation.

